

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method to manage a buffer, comprising:  
storing audio information in a circular buffer;  
generating a schedule of access to said audio information by a plurality of components;  
determining a frame boundary for said audio information; and  
accessing said stored audio information by said components in accordance with said schedule and said determined frame boundary;  
wherein the determined frame boundary is of at least one of the components.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said storing comprises:  
receiving said audio information;  
identifying a buffer location to store said audio information; and  
storing said audio information in said buffer location.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said storing further comprises:  
determining whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary; and

sending a first signal with said determined frame boundary in accordance with said determination of whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said scheduling comprises:  
receiving said first signal;  
selecting some components to access said buffer using said determined frame boundary;  
and  
sending a second signal to said selected components to access said buffer.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said accessing comprises:  
receiving said second signal;  
retrieving an index to indicate a first buffer location;  
reading a frame of audio information from said buffer using said index;  
processing said read frame of audio information;  
writing said processed audio information to said buffer; and  
updating said index to a second buffer location.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to perform media processing, comprising:  
a circular buffer;  
an audio data module connected to said circular buffer;  
a plurality of components connected to said circular buffer; and

a scheduling module connected to said audio data module and said components, said scheduling module to generate a schedule of access to audio information stored by said circular buffer for said plurality of components, said audio data module to determine a frame boundary for said stored audio information, and said components to access said stored audio information in accordance with said schedule and said determined frame boundary;  
wherein the determined frame boundary is of at least one of the components.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said plurality of components comprises at least two components of a list of components comprising a preprocessing module, an echo canceller, a signal detector and generator, an automatic gain controller, and a voice encoder.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said plurality of components comprises at least two components of a list of components comprising a data modem, a signal detector and generator, automatic volume control and voice decoder.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein said audio data module stores audio information in said circular buffer by receiving audio information, identifying a buffer location to store said received audio information, and storing said received audio information in said buffer location.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said audio data module determines whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary, and sends a first signal with said determined frame boundary if said buffer location is a frame boundary.
11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said scheduling module schedules generates said schedule of access to said audio information by said components by receiving said first signal, selecting some components to access said buffer using said frame boundary, and sending a second signal to said selected components to access said buffer.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein each of said selected components ~~component~~ accesses said stored audio information by receiving said second signal, retrieving an index to indicate a first buffer location, reading a frame of said stored audio information from said buffer using said index, processing said read frame of audio information, writing said processed audio information to said buffer, and updating said index to a second buffer location.
13. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:
  - a storage medium;
  - said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in storing audio information in a circular buffer, generating a schedule of access to said audio information by a plurality of components, determining a frame boundary for said audio

information, and accessing said stored audio information by said components in accordance with said schedule and said determined frame boundary;  
wherein the determined frame boundary is of at least one of the components.

14. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 13, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said storing by receiving said audio information, identifying a buffer location to store said audio information, and storing said audio information in said buffer location.

15. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 14, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said storing by determining whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary, and sending a first signal with said determined frame boundary in accordance with said determination of whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary.

16. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said generating said schedule scheduling by receiving said first signal, selecting some components to access said buffer using said determined frame boundary, and sending a second signal to said selected components to access said buffer.

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 16, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in said accessing by receiving said second signal,

retrieving an index to indicate a first buffer location, reading a frame of audio information from said buffer using said index, processing said read frame of audio information, writing said processed audio information to said buffer, and updating said index to a second buffer location.

18. (Currently Amended) A system to process audio information, comprising:
  - a media gateway;
  - a media gateway controller; and
  - a media processing device connected to said media gateway and said media gateway controller, said media processing device comprising:
    - a circular buffer;
    - an audio data module connected to said circular buffer;
    - a plurality of components connected to said circular buffer; and
    - a scheduling module connected to said audio data module and said components, said scheduling module to generate a schedule of access to audio information stored by said circular buffer for said plurality of components, said audio data module to determine a frame boundary for said stored audio information, and said components to access said stored audio information in accordance with said schedule and said determined frame boundary;  
wherein the determined frame boundary is of at least one of the components.
19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said audio data module stores audio information in said circular buffer by receiving audio information, identifying a buffer location to store said received audio information, and storing said received audio information in said buffer location.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said audio data module determines whether said buffer location comprises said determined frame boundary, and sends a first signal with said determined frame boundary if said buffer location is a frame boundary.
22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein said scheduling module ~~schedules generates said schedule of~~ access to said audio information by said components by receiving said first signal, selecting some components to access said buffer using said frame boundary, and sending a second signal to said selected components to access said buffer.
23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein each of said selected components component accesses said stored audio information by receiving said second signal, retrieving an index to indicate a first buffer location, reading a frame of said stored audio information from said buffer using said index, processing said read frame of audio information, writing said processed audio information to said buffer, and updating said index to a second buffer location.